

Appl. No. 10/016,826  
Amdt. dated October 28, 2003  
Reply to Office action of May 28, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0059] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0059] It is generally accepted that oxidative reactions are involved in the pathophysiology of many degenerative disease processes including rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, cancer and cataracts. Changes in bilirubin concentrations in these diseases, however, have not been determined. A previous invention of one of the co-inventors found a significant association between low, but yet normal, serum bilirubin concentrations and coronary artery disease (CAD). This appears to have been ~~was~~ the first finding of a relationship between a low, but yet normal, serum bilirubin concentration and a specific disease. It is not known why bilirubin concentrations are lower in individuals with CAD than in individuals without CAD, nor is it known if low bilirubin concentrations are associated with other diseases and medical conditions. It may be postulated, however, that serum bilirubin may be acting as an antioxidant and that the lower concentrations may be a reflection of increased oxidation of bilirubin.